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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Note verbale dated 15 September 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to his note verbale dated 26 March 1997 has the honour to transmit herewith the communication of the Government of Bulgaria on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/30 A of 5 December 1996, entitled "Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria has the honour to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate the present note and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (b).

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ANNEX

Communication from the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/30 A

The Republic of Bulgaria has strictly complied with all United Nations resolutions related to the mandatory trade and economic embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Government of Bulgaria shares the opinion that the regime of the Security Council sanctions was an integral element of the international efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

At the same time, as a country with an economy oriented 80 per cent towards foreign markets, Bulgaria has been extremely vulnerable to the negative side-effects of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

According to Bulgarian experts using the methodology of the United Nations Development Programme, the total amount of losses sustained by the Bulgarian economy owing to the strict implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is estimated to exceed US$ 8 billion.

After the lifting of the sanctions the special economic problems resulting from the implementation of the sanctions regime coupled with the ongoing process of difficult transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy and the accumulation of losses related to the implementation of the sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Iraq continue to exert a negative impact on the national economy and on the overall social and economic situation in Bulgaria.

Until the enforcement of the sanctions regime the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was a major trading partner of Bulgaria, with 75 per cent of its exports transiting through Yugoslav territory. A substantial part of the losses sustained by the Bulgarian economy resulted from the disruption of the traditional commercial route for Bulgarian exports to central and Western Europe, which caused a considerable scaling-down of economic relations with countries from that part of the continent.

The period of implementation of the sanctions has shown the lack of preparedness of the international community to respond in an adequate manner to difficulties and unforeseen negative consequences for third States neighbouring the target country. Up to this moment Bulgaria has not received adequate financial and technical assistance as compensation for its losses resulting from the implementation of the international sanctions regime. Bulgaria will appreciate the assistance rendered to companies from affected States in order to enable them to take part in the post-conflict reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bulgaria will also welcome projects aimed at improvement of the regional infrastructure, including long-term transport infrastructure projects.

Bulgaria is confident that the international community will undertake the necessary concerted efforts aimed at the effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/30 A.

The Republic of Bulgaria shares the opinion that the international community should show political will for the establishment of a complex and effective mechanism for overcoming the adverse impact of the sanctions on seriously affected third States that comply strictly with the relevant United Nations resolutions.